

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-124 are pending. By this amendment, the title is amended and Claims 1, 28, 56, and 119-121 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 86-118 and Claims 122-124 are allowed and that Claims 8-20, 22, 25, 35-47, 49, 51, 63-75, 77, 79 and 85 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-5, 7, 21, 23, 26-32, 34, 48, 50, 53-60, 62, 76, 78, 81-84, and 119-121 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over USP 4,470,689 to Nomura et al. and Claims 6, 24, 33, 52, 61 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nomura in view of USP 4,708,455 to Kubota et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

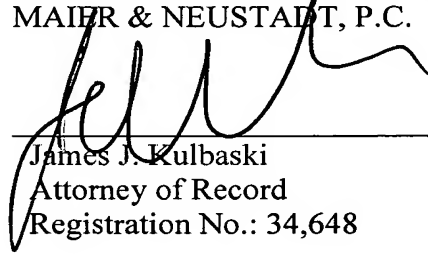
The applied references do not disclose a housing for housing a shutter, as in amended independent Claims 1, 28 and 56, or a housing means for housing a covering/uncovering means, as in amended independent Claims 119-121. See, e.g., specification at page 22, line 17, et seq. Instead, the cover 18 of Nomura is exposed. See, e.g., Nomura at Fig. 1. The stay 36 disclosed at col. 6, line 18 et seq. is not part of the process kit 14 and is instead attached to copying apparatus body C. In Kubota, cover 26 is exposed, as shown in Fig. 1.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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